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Government of Bengal

Commerce Department

**Report on an Enquiry
into the Standard of Living of
Jute Mill Workers in Bengal**

By

Dr. A. C. Roy Choudhury

Special Officer

Calcutta

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Report on an Enquiry into the Standard of Living of Jute Mill Workers in Bengal

[By Dr. A. C. Roy Choudhury, Special Officer]

The inquiry was started by the Government of Bengal for the collection of a number of family budgets to ascertain the standard of living of the poorer classes of labourers in the industrial centres of Bengal. Owing to the shortness of time and insufficiency of trained staff, it was suggested that the inquiry should be of an intensive nature, preferring a smaller number of reliable budgets to a larger number of doubtful ones. Moreover, it was proposed that the inquiry should be confined to certain typical establishments rather than a larger number of widely separated establishments.

2. It was decided to confine the inquiry to the jute mill workers in the first instance. Six mills situated in three centres were selected for the purpose, viz., Fort William and Ganges in Howrah, Clive and Hooghly in Kidderpur and Matiabruz, and Kelvin and Kinnison in Titagarh.

3. The work was started about the middle of June by Dr. G. L. Batra who selected the mills, drew up the forms and distributed the preliminary forms to the different mills and then left for America on study leave. I took over from him on the 26th idem but the actual collection of budgets was begun in the first week of July.

4. Owing to trade depression, the Jute Mill Association decided to cut down the working hours of the mills to 54 hours per week and close the mills altogether for one week every month from July as a temporary measure. This temporary abnormal situation has affected the economic condition of the labourers to a great extent, so we were left with only one month (viz., June) to collect the normal family budgets. This prevented us from comparing the budgets with those of the subsequent months.

Collection of Budgets.

5. **Procedure.**—It was decided to collect 24 budgets of different classes from each of these six mills, that is, 144 in all. Accordingly, 24 preliminary forms were distributed to the Managers of each of these jute mills with instructions to select representative families with total income of less than Rs. 50 per mensem from the following classes of workers:—

Hindus—

Bengali.

Behari.

United Provinces.

Central Provinces.

Madrassi.

Muhammadans—

Bengali.

Behari.

United Provinces.

There is practically no Muhammadan family from Central Provinces or Madras. It was found in the course of the investigation that sufficient numbers of families of each of the above groups were not available in every jute mill, as some employ mostly Madrassis and others workers from United Provinces and so on. Hence the collection of groups could not be uniform in all the mills.

6. The preliminary forms were filled up in most cases by the resident medical officers who knew the workers well, as also their quarters. In one case the forms were collected by the Assistant Manager himself.

7. The families were selected mostly from those living in the company's cooly quarters or in bustis near about, which were all inspected by us personally to ascertain whether they were really representative families or not. The homes of a small number, chiefly Bengalis, who live some distance away from the mills could not be personally inspected owing to shortness of time.

8. Next, the form No. 1 was filled up by us by questioning the individual workers, either in the mill dispensary, factory compound or in the cooly quarters, in the presence of their departmental heads or sardars, who verified the income side of the wage-earners. These were verified in some cases from the mill office.

9. The expenditure side was verified in the following ways:—

- (a) By comparing the statements in the preliminary forms with those made before us. Discrepancies found were corrected by further questioning.
- (b) The workers generally buy their principal foodstuffs, viz., rice, wheat and dhal by the quantity available per rupee. These were found in some cases to last more than a week, say eight to ten days. The budgets were corrected accordingly for a week. In some cases the purchases were made fortnightly but it was put down as weekly; these were corrected.
- (c) Where expenditure was found to exceed the income the workers were re-examined and certain items of expenditure which were, in the first instance, stated as of a regular nature, were found to be not so; in a few others exaggerated statements were made out of fear in the first instance: but correct statements were obtained on our reassuring them. The budgets were corrected accordingly.
- (d) The price of some of the principal foodstuffs were also verified from the grocers' shops and the neighbouring bazars.
- (e) Inspection of the workers' quarters gave a fair idea of the articles which they really possess.
- (f) In a number of budgets, the monthly expenses exceed the monthly income. We accepted some of these budgets because—first, we believed the statements to be true; secondly, foods, where mis-statements are chiefly made, were found to be of normal calorific value; thirdly, the debts incurred from time to time and in some cases the gradual sale of jewellery during the past one year or so substantiated the excess monthly expenditure.

10. Out of 153 budgets collected, 28 were rejected for various reasons chiefly due to exaggerated statements. A few were afterwards discovered to be sardars, who had side-incomes though their regular income was within Rs. 50. On inspection of their quarters they were found to be living in a style above that of others of similar income. A few others were also rejected because the income was found to exceed Rs. 50 with side-incomes.

Compilation of Results.

11. In compiling the results, the payment of capital and interest on debts has been altogether omitted from the body of the budgets, for the following reasons:—

- (i) The workers borrow from various persons and do not know what is the total amount of interest accruing monthly.
- (ii) They are very irregular in the payment of interest. They pay what they can and when they can.
- (iii) Even debts incurred on an instalment system are seldom paid regularly.
- (iv) Inclusion of such irregular payments would only upset a normal budget without showing either the regular expenses or the payment of debt. These debts therefore were tabulated in a separate list.

12. Remittance to dependants (who are mostly only partially dependants), is irregular, so it was shown separately.

13. Gifts and inherited articles, mostly utensils and furniture, as bedsteads, have not been taken into consideration, as the average monthly cost of these articles is negligible, and in the present economic condition of the workers there is very little chance of these articles being replaced when worn out.

14. The annual re-ropeing charges of the “charpoys” (cots) have been taken into account in estimating the average monthly expenditure on the article.

15. The cost of firewood collected by the worker’s wife from jungles has been shown under both income and expenditure.

16. Where workmen live in their own houses the amount which a tenant would have to pay for the house has been entered as rent, and this amount, less the average monthly expenditure on ground rent, taxes and repairs, has been added to the income. The estimated net income from landed property has been added to the income.

17. The families buying on credit have got to pay on the average 10 per cent. over the market price. Excess has been shown under “Miscellaneous expenditure.”

18. Lusk’s formula for equivalent adult male has been adopted here in the absence any such finding for this country.

The formula is—

Male over 14 years	...	...	...	1'00
Female over 14 years	...	...	...	'83
Child—10 to 14 years	...	...	...	'83
Child—6 to 10 years	...	...	...	'70
Child—1 to 6 years	...	...	...	'50

Results of Inquiry.

19. As a comparatively small number of budgets have been collected in this short time, we refrain from elaborate classifications, but only show the broad features to give a general idea of the standard of living of the jute mill workers in Bengal.

Classification of all budgets according to race, religion and industry.

TABLE 1.

Names of industries.	Bengali Hindu.	Behari Hindu.	United Provinces Hindu.	Central Provinces Hindu.	Madras Hindu.	Bengali Muhammadan.	Bihari Muhammadan.	United Provinces Muhammadan.	Total.	Rejected budgets.
Ganges Jute Mills, Ltd. . .	4	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	22	7
Fort William Jute Mills . .	1	2	10		1			3	17	4
Hooghly Jute Mill . . .	2	3	4		2			3	16	3
Clive Jute Mills . . .	2		3	14		5		2	32	2
Kinnison Jute Mills . . .		1	2	1		3			15	2
Kelvin Jute Mills . . .		2			17			2	23	4
Total of all industries . .	10	10	28	17	23	11	12	14	125	28

20. A sufficient number of families of a representative nature of every class could not be found in all Jute Mills, hence the idea of collecting a fixed number from each mill could not be adhered to.

Composition of all families in different classes according to wage-earners and dependants.

TABLE 2.

Race and religion.	Total of families.	Wage-earners.			Dependants.			Elsewhere.		
		Male.	Female.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Children.
DIVISION I.										
Behari Muhammadan ..	12	15	4	Nil	Nil	12	34	1	1	Nil.
United Provinces Muhammadan ..	14	16	5	1	Nil	11	35	2	2	3
Bengali Muhammadan ..	11	13	3	Nil	Nil	14	21	Nil	Nil	Nil.
Bengali Hindu ..	10	10	2	Nil	1	9	17	4	3	4
DIVISION II.										
Central Provinces Hindu ..	17	21	17	1	Nil	3	13	10	8	4
Behari Hindu ..	10	11	5	Nil	Nil	7	18	2	2	2
Madras Hindu ..	23	26	23	Nil	1	5	50	Nil	1	Nil.
United Provinces Hindu ..	28	32	18	Nil	1	12	45	2	4	2
All classes ..	125	144	77	2	3	73	233	21	21	15

21. The table prepage shows:—

(a) That there are very few adult male dependants unless they are incapacitated for one reason or other.

(b) That the females of the Muhammadans, as a rule, and also those of the Bengali Hindus are mostly dependants and not wage-earners. The total number of female wage-earners to the total female dependants in the two divisions in the table prepage, being 14: 46 and 63: 27, respectively.

(c) Children (under 15 years) are not generally wage-earners; there being only two in 125 families.

The percentage of the female wage-earners and Dependants in the two divisions.

TABLE 3A.

Divisions.				Wage-earners.	Dependants.
				Per cent.	Per cent.
1	..	..	..	23	77
2	..	..	..	70	30

The average income per capita of the females in the two divisions.

TABLE 3B.

Divisions.				Women-earners.	Women-dependants.	Total number of women.	Total wages earned by women monthly.	Average per capita.
							Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	..	..		14	46	60	205 9 9	3 6 10
2	..	..		63	23	90	842 4 11	9 5 9

22. It is obvious from the above table that the women of the second division contribute on the average about three times more than those of the first division. The cause of this difference is the purdah system of the Muhammadans and to some extent of the Bengali Hindus who think it a point of honor not to allow their females to work outside. On the other hand, all the Hindus coming from outside Bengal are not hampered by any social custom and do not think it derogatory for their females to work.

The side-income of the earners of the two divisions.

TABLE 4.

Divisions.	Sex.	Number of earners.	Total additional earnings.	Average earnings per capita.	Total.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1 ..	Male ..	54	150 4 11	2 12 6	4 2 0
	Female	18*	25 2 0	1 6 4	
2 ..	Male ..	90	89 8 9	0 15 11	1 0 10
	Female	65†	3 15 0	0 0 11	

*Includes 4 women who are not wage-earners, but have side-incomes.

†Includes 2 women who are not wage-earners, but have side-incomes.

23. As compared with division 2 both male and female wage-earners of division 1 have got to supplement their income from mill by outside earnings, which again is three times that of division 2.

Number of family budgets by income groups.

TABLE 5.

Income Groups.	Number of Family Budgets.	Percentage to Total.
Below Rs. 20	1	·8*
Rs. 20 and below Rs. 30	43	34·4
Rs. 30 and below Rs. 40	47	37·6
Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50	34	27·2
	125	100·0

*This Budget has been omitted in the statistical tables of income and expenditure except in table No. 8.

24. The majority of the families earn between Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per month.

Family composition according to race and religion in different income groups.

TABLE 6.

Race and religion.	Income groups.											
	Below Rs. 20.			Rs. 20 and below Rs. 30.			Rs. 30 and below Rs. 40.			Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50.		
	Male.	Female.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Children.
1. Madrassi Hindu ..	1	1	1	1·11	1·1	1·88	1·25	1·25	2·75	1	1·6	1·6
2. Bengali Hindu ..	..	..	..	1	1	1·66	1·25	1·25	2·5	1·3	·9	·6
3. Behari Hindu ..	..	..	..	1	1	2·4	1·0	·9	·6	1·5	2·16	2·0
4. Central Provinces Hindu ..	..	..	..	1·6	1·8	·3	1·5	1·16	1·5	2·6	1·8	1·4
5. United Provinces Hindu ..	..	..	..	1·1	1·1	1·7	1·14	1·14	1·6	1·4	1·4	1·5
6. Behari Muhammadan	..	..	..	1	1·3	2·8	1·2	·8	2·6	1·75	2·0	3·5
7. Bengali Muhamma- dan ..	..	..	..	1	1·0	2·5	1·16	1·19	2·3	1·3	1·9	·6
8. United Provinces Muhammadan ..	..	..	..	1	1	2·0	1·37	1·5	2·7	1	1	4
Average ..	1	1	1	1·1	1·16	1·84	1·23	1·15	2·07	1·48	1·59	1·9

Composition of wage-earners and dependants according to race and religion in different income groups.

TABLE 7.

Race and religion.	Income groups.																															
	Below Rs. 20.			Rs. 20 and below Rs. 30.			Rs. 30 and below Rs. 40.			Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50.																						
	Wage-earners.		Dependents.	Wage-earners.		Dependents.	Wage-earners.		Dependents.	Wage-earners.		Dependents.																				
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.																				
Madras Hindu ..	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	9	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	2	7	1	1	4	0	0	2	1	8							
United Provinces Hindu ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	0	1	4	1	7	1	1	8	0	0	3	1	6	1	3	5	0	1	9	1	5			
Behari Hindu ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	0	0	6	2	4	1	7	0	0	3	7	1	5	7	0	0	1	5	2	0	1	5	2	0
Central Provinces Hindu ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	0	7	8	8	1	1	0	5	2	1	5	1	8	1	2	8	8	1	2	0	1	5	2	0
Bengali Hindu ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0	0	1	1	7	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	5	1	7	0	3	3	6	0	1	6	6	0
Bengali Muhammadan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0	0	1	2	5	1	2	3	0	0	1	2	2	3	1	3	3	0	0	1	6	6	0	
United Provinces Muhammadan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	0	0	7	2	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	2	7	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0
Behari Muhammadan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	3	1	2	2	0	0	6	2	6	1	5	5	0	2	1	5	3	5	0
Average of all families ..	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	4	0	1	7	1	8	1	1	5	0	1	7	2	1	1	3	8	0	3	2	8	1	9	0

25. The previous table shows that a family can hardly expect to increase its monthly income by larger individual earnings but only by containing more wage-earners.

The average monthly income and expenditure per family and per equivalent adult male.

TABLE 8A.

	Per average family.			Per equivalent adult male.			Percentage to total expenditure.
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	
Income	34	7	0	10	11	8	..
Different items of expenditure—							
Food	20	13	5	6	7	10	64·9
Fuel and lighting	2	4	7	0	11	5	7·13
Rent	1	8	5	0	7	7	4·74
Clothing	2	6	5	0	12	0	7·5
Household requisites and beddings	0	8	9	0	2	9	1·72
Miscellaneous	4	7	11	1	6	5	14·01
Total expenditure	32	1	6	10	0	0	100

This table includes—one budget having an income below Rs. 20 which has been omitted in subsequent tables under income groups.

26. Of the total monthly expenditure 65 per cent. is spent on food and 35 per cent. on all other items. The results are interesting and in accord with practical experience. It should however be noted that food prices in Calcutta have fallen considerably since these figures were collected. (See appendix—Rice price graph).

Comparative statement of the average monthly income and expenditure per family in Bengal, Bombay and Sholapur.

TABLE 8B.

Provinces.		Expenditure.						
		Monthly income.	Total.	Food.	Fuel and lighting.	Rent.	Household requisites clothing and bedding.	Miscellaneous.
Bengal ..	Amount	Rs 34-7-0	Rs 32-1-6	Rs 20-13-5	Rs 2-4-7	Rs 1-8-5*	Rs 2-15-2	Rs 4-7-11†
	Percentage to total expenditure			64·9	7·13	4·74	9·22	14·01
Bombay	Amount	Rs 35-2-3	Rs 33-13-1	Rs 19-15-0	Rs 2-13-4	Rs 2-11-6	Rs 3-3-7‡	Rs 5-1-8
	Percentage to total expenditure	..	..	59·56	8·2	8·8	10·3	13·8
Sholapur	Amount	..	..	Not available.	8·2	8·8	10·3	13·8
	Percentage to total expenditure	..	..	§49·37	9·97	6·68	12·89	21·07

*We did not adjust the "concession rates of rentals" in different mills.

†Excluding the payments of interest on debts, remittances to dependants.

‡No mention about household requisites.

§Now the principal staple food of the sholapur workers are given at a concession rate by the employing companies.

The average monthly income and expenditure on different items per equivalent adult male (unit) in different income groups.

TABLE 9 A.

Rupees 20 and below Rs. 30.

Race and religion.	No. of families.	Adult- units (aver- age).	Income.			Food.			Fuel and lighting.			Rent.			Clothing.			Household requisites and beddings.			Miscella- neous.			Total expenditure.		
			Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
United Provinces Hindu	11	2.69	10	1	0	5	14	5	0	12	5	0	9	1	0	11	9	0	2	7	1	3	11	9	6	2
Madras Hindu	9	3.32	8	2	8	5	8	7	0	10	0	0	2	10	0	10	2	0	1	10	1	3	7	8	5	9
Bihar Hindu	5	3.15	8	8	6	5	5	5	0	9	9	0	8	11	0	11	1	0	1	7	1	0	11	8	5	8
Central Provinces Hindu	6	1.83	15	6	7	7	7	0	1	5	3	0	2	2	1	1	7	0	3	10	1	5	10	11	9	8
Bengal Hindu	3	2.74	9	6	11	6	4	6	0	9	9	0	9	8	0	11	5	0	2	11	0	14	8	9	4	11
Bengal Muhammadan	2	3.18	7	10	4	4	14	0	0	8	10	9	7	6	0	13	2	0	3	5	0	12	6	7	11	5
United Provinces Muhammadan	4	3.01	8	9	9	5	6	7	0	10	1	0	6	4	0	11	8	0	2	8	0	15	6	8	4	10
Bihar Muhammadan	3	3.23	8	8	10	5	5	8	0	8	11	0	10	0	0	7	6	0	1	7	1	0	4	8	2	0
Total	43	23.15	76	6	7	46	2	2	5	11	0	3	8	6	5	14	4	1	4	5	8	9	3	71	1	8
Average	..	2.9	8	10		5	12	3	0	11	4	0	7	1	0	11	9	0	2	7	1	1	2	8	14	3

TABLE 9 B

Rupees 30 and below Rs. 40.

Race and religion.	No. of families.	Abit- units.	Income.			Food.			Fuel and lighting.			Rent.			Clothing.			Household requisites and beddings.			Miscellaneous.			Total expenditure.		
			Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
United Provinces Hindu ..	7	2.7	12	13	2	7	3	6	0	14	0	0	6	0	0	14	6	0	3	8	2	1	4	11	11	0
Madras Hindu ..	8	4.0	8	9	3	5	13	7	0	11	11	0	2	11	0	9	10	0	2	0	1	4	7	8	12	10
Bihari Hindu ..	3	2.27	16	4	4	9	10	3	1	1	7	0	10	3	0	12	5	0	2	9	1	12	6	14	1	9
Central Provinces Hindu ..	6	2.56	13	10	5	7	14	3	1	1	1	0	5	5	0	14	9	0	3	10	1	5	11	11	13	3
Bengali Hindu ..	4	3.56	9	7	10	5	10	5	0	10	3	1	0	10	0	9	7	0	2	11	0	14	10	9	9	19
Bengali Muhammadan ..	6	3.5	10	0	0	6	10	8	0	7	9	0	7	10	0	8	4	0	1	9	1	1	9	9	6	1
United Provinces Muhammadan ..	8	3.25	10	13	1	6	7	3	0	9	2	0	13	10	0	11	5	0	2	10	1	4	9	10	1	3
Bihari Muhammadan ..	5	3.7	9	1	11	5	15	5	0	8	8	0	7	2	0	11	4	0	2	2	1	0	0	8	12	9
Total ..	47	25.54	90	12	0	55	5	4	6	0	5	4	6	3	5	12	2	1	5	11	10	13	8	83	11	9
Average ..	..	3.2	11	5	6	6	14	8	0	12	0	0	9	0	0	11	6	0	2	9	1	5	8	10	7	6

TABLE 9 C.

Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50.

Race and religion.	No. of families.	Adm. units.	Income.		Food		Fuel and lighting.		Rent.		Clothing.		Household requisites and bedding.		Miscellaneous.		Total expenditure.	
			Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
United Provinces Hindu	10	3-3	13	3 2	7	12 3	0	11 6	0	10 0	0	15 9	0	3 7	2	5 10	12	10 11
Madras Hindu	5	3-51	12	5 5	7	8 9	0	14 3	0	4 0	0	13 9	0	2 10	1	13 0	11	8 7
Bihar Hindu	2	4-16	9	12 4	6	11 2	0	9 1	0	6 2	0	11 2	0	1 11	1	0 11	9	8 5
Central Provinces Hindu	5	3-37	13	6 4	7	0 0	0	13 6	0	2 5	0	14 8	0	3 0	1	6 5	10	8 0
Bengal Hindu	3	2-56	16	8 2	9	8 4	1	0 5	0	13 8	1	1 2	0	5 2	2	7 2	15	8 11
Bengali Muhammadan	3	3-44	13	10 0	8	8 2	0	12 10	0	9 10	0	12 0	0	5 6	2	3 6	13	3 10
United Provinces Muhammadan	2	5-14	8	10 5	6	3 3	0	7 5	0	8 7	0	8 2	0	1 6	0	12 1	8	9 0
Bihar Muhammadan	4	4-91	9	4 9	4	13 11	0	7 0	0	8 9	0	9 9	0	1 10	1	3 8	7	12 11
Total	34	30-39	96	12 7	58	1 10	5	12 0	3	15 5	6	6 5	1	9 4	13	4 7	89	1 7
Average	..	3-8	12	1 7	7	4 3	0	11 6	0	7 11	0	12 10	0	3 2	1	10 7	11	2 2

27. The above three tables show that—

- (a) with the increase in income the expenditure on food in the three income groups go up from Rs. 5-12 to Rs. 6-14 and Rs. 7-4 per unit, respectively;
- (b) miscellaneous expenditures show a similar increase; and
- (c) in all other items there is no noticeable variation.

Percentage expenditure on different items to the total income in different income groups.

TABLE 10.

		Rs. 20 and below Rs. 30.	Rs. 30 and below Rs. 40.	Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50.	Average for all.
Number of families	.. ..	43	47	34	..
Equivalent adult units	.. ..	2.9	3.2	3.8	..
Income per unit	.. ..	9-8-10	11-5-6	12-1-7	..
Food	.. ..	60.4	60.9	60	60.4
Fuel and lighting	.. ..	7.7	6.6	5.9	6.7
Rent	.. ..	4.6	4.9	4.1	4.5
Clothing	.. ..	7.9	6.3	6.7	6.9
Household, etc.	.. ..	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5
Miscellaneous	.. ..	11.2	12.0	13.7	12.3
Total	.. ..	93.4	92.2	92.00	92.5

28. The table shows that 60 per cent. of the income is spent on food and 32 per cent. on all other items. Most of the families are in a chronic state of indebtedness and the apparent savings of 8 per cent. are spent on the payment of debts and interest, except a few families who really do make a saving.

The percentage expenditure on different items to the total expenditure by income groups.

TABLE 11.

		Rs. 20 and below Rs. 30.	Rs. 30 and below Rs. 40.	Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50.	Average for all.
Number of families	.. ..	43	47	34	..
Equivalent adult units	.. ..	2.9	3.2	3.8	..
Expenditure per unit	.. ..	8-14-2	10-7-6	11-2-2	..
Food	.. ..	64.8	66.1	65.3	65.4
Fuel and lighting	.. ..	7.9	7.1	6.3	7.1
Rent	.. ..	4.9	5.4	4.3	4.8
Clothing	.. ..	8.2	6.9	7.3	7.5
Household, etc.	.. ..	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.8
Miscellaneous	.. ..	12.4	12.9	14.9	13.4
Total	.. ..	100	100.00	100.00	100.00

Food.

29. **Rice and wheat.**—The staple foods of the workers are rice and wheat. The Madrassis are wholly rice eaters. Amongst the Bengali Hindus and Muhammadans wheat forms only one-tenth of the quantity of the rice consumed. Rice forms two-thirds and wheat one-third of the staple foods of the United Provinces people and Bihari Hindus; whereas amongst the remaining classes wheat forms only one-fifth of the staple foods. Biharis and United Provinces people would usually prefer wheat to rice but, owing to their economic condition and long residence in Bengal, there is a marked change in their usual diet. The recent recruited workers from the other provinces generally take cheap red rice, while those who are living long in Bengal prefer white milled rice.

30. **Dal.**—Except the Bengalis, who take all varieties of pulses by turns, all other classes take arahar almost solely. The Madrassis prefer moong to others, but many have taken to arahar owing to economic considerations and association with other workers.

31. **Sugar.**—A noticeable change is the substitution of native gur (molasses) by refined sugar, except amongst the Bengalis, who still retain the habit of taking gur to some extent.

32. **Tea.**—Of the 125 families, 70 families take tea. Almost all of them prepare tea at home. Sixty per cent. of the Biharis and United Provinces people, 50 per cent. of the Bengalis and Madrassis, while only 17 per cent. of the Central Provinces people take tea. The Central Provinces people are very economical in their mode of living, but there is one strange exception; of the three families who take tea, one family, consisting of husband, wife and two children, takes Rs. 6-12 worth of ready-made tea a month and of the other foodstuffs take only rice, dal and potatoes.

33. **Fish and meat.**—All classes except Central Provinces people take fresh fish. Salted and dried fish are only taken by the Madrassis. Muhammadans mostly take beef, but the Bengali Muhammadans are not very particularly fond of it. Mutton (goat) is taken by all Hindu workers. Muhammadans prefer beef to mutton because of its cheapness. The Central Provinces workers, who mostly belong to the religious sect of Satnamis (corresponding to the Baishnab class of Bengal), do not touch fish or meat in any form.

34. **Milk.**—Milk is consumed only in very small quantities with tea. Condensed milk is just getting an introduction amongst the workers. A few families keep goats.

35. **Ghee and oil.**—Ghee is consumed more or less by all the classes except the Madrassis while cent. per cent. of the Bihari Hindus take ghee. Madrassis in their native province generally use sesamum oil for cooking, but here in common with all other classes most of them are using mustard oil.

36. **Vegetables.**—Potatoes and onions are the chief vegetables consumed by all classes. Other vegetables are also taken in small quantities. Tamariud is universally taken by the Madrassis.

37. **Other foodstuffs.**—Besides their two principal meals, some of the workers take a tiffin of soaked gram and cheap sweetmeats during the mill hours, while those living in the company's cool quarters and bastis near about take mostly rice as their tiffin.

The relative amount of expenditure on (a) rice and wheat, (b) rice, wheat and dal, and (c) other items per equivalent adult male unit.

TABLE 12.

Class.	Total expenses on food.	On rice and wheat.	On other items except rice and wheat.	On rice wheat and dal.	On items except rice, wheat and dal.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Provinces Hindu ..	6.9	3.48	3.42	4.16	2.74
Bihari Hindu ..	6.6	3.3	3.3	3.88	2.72
Central Provinces Hindu ..	7.16	4.2	2.96	5.0	2.16
Madras Hindu ..	5.2	3.0	2.2	3.4	1.8
Bengali Hindu ..	7.19	2.9	4.29	3.3	3.89
Bengali Muhammadan ..	6.35	2.7	3.65	3.0	3.35
United Provinces Muhammadan ..	6.0	3.3	2.7	3.7	2.3
Bihari Muhammadan ..	5.37	2.7	2.67	3.1	2.27
Average ..	6.3	3.2	3.1	3.6	2.7
Percentage of all classes ..	..	50	50	58.7	41.3

38. It will be seen from the above table that on the average of its total expenditure on food a family spends 50 per cent. on staple food and 50 per cent. on the remaining articles of the diet. This finding tallies exactly with the Sholapur figures. The poorer the diet the greater is the consumption on staple food as in Central Provinces. On the other hand, the more varied the diet the less is the consumption of staple food and greater of other articles of diet. On this principle it will be found from the above table that the Bengalis take a more varied diet, spending more on other articles of diet than on staple food, whereas all other classes, specially the Central Provinces people consume a less varied diet, spending more on rice and wheat than on other items (Rs. 4.2 on rice and wheat and Rs. 2.96 on other items), except the Biharis who spend equally on both items. The varied nature of the Bengali dietary is still further brought out in the last two columns. On the average a family spends roughly 60 per cent. on rice, wheat and dal and 40 per cent. on the rest.

The quantities (in chattraks) of the different articles of diet consumed by the different classes per day per equivalent adult male.

TABLE 13.

Race and reli. on.	Rice.	Wheat.	Dal.	Sugar.	Fish.	Mutton.	Beef.	Egg.	Milk.	Ghee.	Potato.	Onion.	Other vegeta- bles.	Oil.
United Provinces Hindu ..	7.1	4.0	2.0	.43	.27	.22	..	..	.43	.06	1.0	.42	3	.25
Madras Hindu ..	10.3	.22	1.2	.36	.45	.21	..	..	.38	.03	.67	.44	.4	.16
Bihar Hindu ..	5.1	3.7	1.5	.4	.3	.21	..	..	.11	.09	.94	.43	.4	.23
Central Provinces Hindu ..	12.7	2.3	2.6	.33	.05	.01	..	..	.15	.07	1.1	.7	.32	.21
Bengal Hindu ..	9.9	1.2	1.2	.61	.84	.04	..	..	.61	.04	1.2	.57	1.0	.3
Bengal Muhammadan ..	9.1	.96	.83	.38	.53	.13	.13	..	1.1	.02	1.2	.43	.78	.24
United Provinces Muhammadan ..	8.0	2.2	1.5	.4	.25	.08	.28	.014	.24	.03	.76	.3	.23	.21
Bihar Muhammadan ..	7.4	2.1	1.2	.56	.18	.08	.41	..	.61	.04	7	.36	.27	.27
All classes ..	8.7	2.85	1.5	.43	.36	.12	.10	..	.45	.05	.95	.46	.45	.23

The calorific values of the different articles of diet consumed by the different classes per day per equivalent adult male.

TABLE 14.

Race and religion.	Rice.	Wheat.	Dal.	Sugar.	Fish.	Mutton.	Beef.	Egg.	Milk.	Ghee.	Potato.	Onion.	Other vegetables.	Oil.	Total calories.
United Provinces Hindu	1,401	792	392	97	16	23	..	..	18	25	51	10	17	106	3,038
Madras Hindu	2,163	44	235	81	27	22	..	..	16	13	34	11	23	68	2,737
Bihari Hindu	1,071	733	294	90	18	22	..	..	5	38	48	11	23	97	2,450
Central Provinces Hindu	2,667	455	510	75	3	1	..	..	6	30	56	17	19	89	3,928
Bengal Hindu	2,079	238	235	138	51	4	..	..	26	17	61	14	58	127	3,048
Bengali Muhammadan	1,911	190	163	87	32	14	14	..	46	8	61	11	45	101	2,883
United Provinces Muhammadan	1,680	436	294	90	15	8	30	1	10	13	39	7	13	89	2,725
Bihari Muhammadan	1,554	416	235	127	11	8	43	..	26	17	36	9	16	114	2,612
All classes	1,827	413	295	98	22	13	11	..	19	20	48	11	27	99	2,903

39. The average of calories per unit per day comes up to 2,900. The people of the Central Provinces on the average take 3,900. This is mainly due to the large quantity of rice which forms their tiffin as well as their principal meals. Although their diet is simpler they get more calorific value from it.

The calorific values have been estimated according to the scale shown in the appendix.

39A. **Food economics.**—The gruel or the rice water is generally thrown away except amongst the new recruits of Bihar and United Provinces who drink the gruel with a little salt. Gradually they are giving up the healthy habit of taking the red rice and its gruel, which contains the minerals and the vitamins, and are taking on to demineralised and devitaminised milled white rice, throwing away the gruel which contains most of the water-soluble vitamin B that is still present in the milled rice.

Besides its greater food value the red rice with gruel is much more economical. First, the red rice is cheaper, secondly, only two-thirds or three-fourths of the quantity will satisfy the system when taken with the gruel thus making a saving of 33 or at least 25 per cent. on this head alone. Some rice-dealers buy red rice very cheap, mill it white and then sell it at higher prices.

Atta (whole wheat flour) is still used by all classes in preference to the white-milled flour, except the Bengalis who are gradually taking on to white flour. Unless attempts are made to educate them to the great food value of Atta as compared with white flour, the latter will gradually supplant the former, specially as the shop-keepers prefer to stock the white flour owing to its better keeping quality.

White sugar has definitely less value, except for its heat value, than the indigenous natural gur (molasses). Similarly, biscuits made of white flour with baking powder containing soda, which destroys the vitamins and which is still further reduced in food value by over-heating, are quite useless. Tea has no food value except for the sugar that is added to it.

Soaked gram with gur used to be the usual tiffin of these people, and is of much higher food value, in protein, minerals and vitamins than the de-mineralised and de-vitaminised white sugar, biscuits and useless tea, which are rapidly supplanting the former. Half an anna's worth of gram and one pice worth of gur are of 100 per cent. more food value than a cup of tea and biscuits of the same value. There is both health and economy in the former whereas the latter is simply a habit, an expensively useless one at that, as in a case noted under tea. Similarly, other nutritious indigenous articles of tiffin such as chirra (germinating flattened rice) and muri (puffed rice) with raw radish and onions, are rapidly going out of use.

If the value of food reforms on these lines demonstrated by cinema films or lantern slides, could be brought home to the workers, it would go a great way to improve their health, and would save money at the same time. Success can be better expected with the labouring classes because the change is economical and, secondly, the fashion has not yet become a settled habit with them.

Fuel and Lighting.

40. Of the total expenditure 7·1 per cent. is spent on this heading. Though coal is cheaper than firewood, some sections, as the Madrassis, owing to religious scruples universally use firewood. Kerosine oil is used for lighting.

Rent.

41. For the same kind of quarters the monthly rent of one room varies from four annas to Re. 1-6-6 in different mills. In private bastis adjoining the company's cooly quarters the rent is generally a bit higher. Sufficient accommodation for all workers is not available in the companies' quarters, which are preferred to private houses because of their cheapness. The total expenditure on this head is 4·8 per cent.

Clothing.

42. There is some doubt as to the accuracy of the number of clothes used per year and their prices. From our actual observation our idea is that here the labourers economise their expenses to some extent. They manage with a less number of clothes when hard up. The torn clothes are always utilised for making kanthas for beddings, which are used both as mattresses and quilts. The Madrassi women wear only one piece of cloth with no other garments. Their saris are usually six yards long against the usual five yards used by other classes. They invariably use their provincial hand-woven saris. These saris are locally produced by some of the weaver coolies in their off time. Women of Bihar, the United Provinces and the Central Provinces invariably wear a jacket. The Bengalis generally wear a chemise. The usual dhoti for the Biharis, United Provinces and Central Provinces people are pieces of unbleached cloth, three or four yards long. These are more durable than the ordinary regular dhotis, but a number of them are now using ordinary dhotis. Bengali Hindus generally use ordinary dhotis, whereas 42 per cent. of the Muhammadans use dhotis only, 28 per cent. lungis only and 30 per cent. both dhotis and lungis. Excepting the Madrassis all other classes use footwear more or less. A certain number of Muhammadan women wear slippers whereas Hindu women remain barefooted. All Muhammadans have a cap which they put on during their prayers. The turbans of the up-country men have practically disappeared in Bengal. Almost all male workers have got an umbrella. Children up to 3 or 4 years of age generally remain naked during the hot weather and rains.

Household Requisites and Beddings.

43. All use kanthas (coverlets or quilts) made of old clothes sewn together. These kanthas are used both as mattresses and quilts. All classes have got a number of blankets, bedsheets and thin-weed mats, except the Madrassis, who generally use their wearing dhotis and saris as beddings.

44. Most of the families have taken to the use of aluminium utensils. Earthenware has not as yet gone quite out of use. The poorer section are using it still.

45. The only furniture is the charpoy, very few having wooden beds, and few have got wooden boxes and trunks. These charpoyes require re-ropeing every year, the charges for which have been taken into account in estimating the monthly expenditure.

Miscellaneous Expenditure.

No attempt has been made to tabulate miscellaneous expenditure but the following remarks are made on it.

46. **Barber.**—Of the total miscellaneous expenditure 13·7 per cent. is spent on this heading. The adult males spend 4 to 5 annas per month, except those of the Central Provinces, who do not allow the barbers to touch them owing to religious scruples. They manage among themselves.

47. **Dhobi and soap.**—All spend a certain amount on this head except the Central Provinces people, who due to religious prejudice do not allow the dhobi to wash their clothes.

48. **Medicine and medical fees.**—Practically there is no expense on these headings as these are met by the employing companies, except for certain serious illnesses or for some expensive medicines, which they have got to purchase from the market on their own account. The worker however frequently has to borrow in case of illness owing to loss of wages.

49. **Education.**—Expense for education of children is practically nil. In 125 families, for 11 boys only, some expenditure is incurred for education.

50. **Tobacco.**—It is mostly used in the form of biri (native cigarette) and dry tobacco leaves with betel-leaves. All workers consume it more or less, but only 50 per cent. of the Biharis and Central Provinces Hindus are used to smoking.

51. **Toddy and liquor.**—We have great doubt as to the correctness of the statements made by the workers under these headings. A certain number answered in the affirmative in the first instance. Of the others some admitted after repeated enquiries. Our general enquiry in the cooly lines and toddy shops shows a more general use of these than admitted by the workers. The use of fresh toddy in small quantities (not in intoxicating doses) can be advocated for supplying a definite quantity of vitamin B, which a poor diet lacks so much. Country liquor is no good.

52. **Opium, ganja and bhang.**—The same remarks as for liquor and toddy apply to the use of these articles. The use of opium for dosing children to keep them quiet during working hours is general among the Central Provinces people both here and in their own country. They use it up to the second year of life after which it is discontinued.

53. **Betel-leaves and nuts.**—It is universally used by all classes.

54. **Amusements.**—Very few can afford to spend anything regularly for amusements. One of the mills provides a weekly cinema show, free of charge, in a special hall constructed for the purpose.

55. **Hair oil.**—Cocconut oil is universally used for the purpose.

56. **Religious festivals.**—A certain amount is spent by all classes.

Indebtedness.

Table showing the state of average indebtedness per family of the different classes of workers.

TABLE 15.

Race and religion.	No. of families.	Number indebted.	Percent- age of indebted family.	Interest bearing debt.	Non inter- est bearing debt.	Total in- debted- ness.	Maximum percentage of interest.	Minimum percentage of interest.	Average percentage of interest.	Monthly interest accruing.
				Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.				Rs. A. P.
Madras Hindu ..	23	18	78.3	91 8 0	2 8 0	94 0 0	193.4	18.75	63.7	3 12 1
United Provinces Hindu ..	23	24	85.9	46 13 8	12 14 1	59 11 9	325	7.5	92.0	5 1 10
Behar Hindu ..	10	7	70	180 9 2	6 9 2	187 2 4	162.5	18.75	65.4	5 4 11
Bengal Hindu ..	10	7	70	62 13 9	....	62 13 9	108	18.75	80.0	3 7 3
Central Provinces Hindu ..	17	7	41.2	40 9 2	10 0 0	50 9 2	325	112.5	178.6	5 2 4
Bengal Muhammadan ..	11	10	90.9	42 8 0	39 10 5	82 2 5	144	34	47.6	1 5 10
United Provinces Muhammadan ..	14	12	85.9	14 7 4	68 10 8	83 2 0	325	18.75	42.1	0 12 9
Behar Muhammadan ..	12	10	83.2	90 11 2	17 12 10	108 8 0	162.5	15	73.5	5 0 6
Average ..	125	95	76	71 4 0	19 12 2	91 0 2	218	30.5	77.9	3 11 11

57. **Seventy-six per cent.** of the families are more or less in debt to the extent of Rs. 91 per family on the average; that is, a family is indebted to the extent of more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times its average monthly income. But a large part of the debt in some cases has been incurred at their native homes and has no connection with their mill life. On the other hand, they come to earn in mills in order to clear off these debts. Two out of 7 indebted families of the Bihari Hindus, have a total debt of Rs. 1,100 incurred at their native villages and of the remaining 5 families the average debt per family is Rs. 42 only. Similarly, if the debts incurred at home are excluded the figures for the Madrassis would stand at Rs. 75 per family instead of Rs. 94 and of the United Provinces Hindus Rs. 45 as against Rs. 60 as shown in the table above. Consistent with their economical method of living the people of Central Provinces are least in debt. All the Central Provinces families make a saving and provided they are free from debts or dependants at home, the money is generally invested in ornaments for their wives.

58. **Interest.**—The maximum interest charged is 325 per cent. or 1 anna per rupee per week. This is generally for small sums. The minimum is generally 18 per cent. The Central Provinces pays the highest rate of interest because (1) they have no security to offer; and (2) they go back to their country every 2 or 3 years when they have made some money. The average rate of interest for all classes is 78 per cent. The average interest accruing per family per month is Rs. 3-12, but in most instances there is no regularity as to the time or amount paid. A large part of this debt is due to the heavy expenses incurred in connection with marriages and funerals.

59. **Remittance to dependants**—Here again there is no regularity as most of the “dependants living elsewhere” are only partially dependants.

General Observations.

60. **Hours of work.**—In single shift mills 60 hours' week and in multiple shifts mills about 40 hours' week for each worker.

61. **Migration.**—The cause of migration in almost all cases is economic strain. They earn markedly more here than they used to do in their own provinces.

62. **Diseases.**—In the course of our investigation we came to know that in some of the mills the percentage of venereal diseases is believed to be very large. Figures are not available as no records are kept. The diseases are contracted mostly from the prostitutes in the bastis adjoining the cooly lines. Some of these prostitutes also work as mill hands. This high prevalence of venereal diseases is obviously due to a great extent to the disparity of the sexes amongst all classes of the workers residing in the cooly lines, except the people of Central Provinces and Madras. There is no proper arrangement for the treatment of these diseases.

63. **Education.**—Children under 15 years of age are not employed in the jute mills and simply waste their time. The establishment of free primary schools for the children is desirable. Out of six mills, in one only there is a free primary school, with 30 or 35 students.

64. **Maternity welfare.**—Out of the six only one mill has got a part-time midwife. In most of the mills there is a maternity allowance in the shape of full-pay-leave for 5 weeks.

65. **Amusements.**—In one mill there is a permanent arrangement for a free weekly cinema show for the workers.

66. **Housing.**—In the six mills investigated a little over 50 per cent. of the employees are accommodated in company's quarters. The sheds are made in blocks with back to back arrangement with tiled roof pucca floor and wall. There is a small verandah in front usually used for cooking and sometimes for accommodating cattle or goats. In some cases these are let out by the occupants to other coolies on a small rental for sleeping during the night. The room itself is in many instances used for cooking. The average size of the rooms is generally 9 feet 6 inches by 8 feet 6 inches. There is one door and sometimes a small window opening on the verandah. In one of these mills there are two-storied coolie lines. The spaces between the blocks are pucca or katcha.

Rooms are generally overcrowded. On the average about 4 persons live in each room, 5 or 6 being common. We have seen as many as 12 persons (3 males, 4 females and 5 children) living in a room 8 feet 6 inches square, but this is exceptional.

Ventilation of the rooms is very unsatisfactory. Water-supply and conservancy are generally good. The surroundings are kept fairly clean.

The other half of the employees live in private bastis adjoining the mill areas. The sheds are generally made of tiles with kutchra floors and mud-plastered bamboo walls. The conservancy, ventilation and and general sanitary conditions are, in most instances, extremely bad, though the rents are higher than the companies' quarters.

Suggestions.

67. (a) It is our conviction that the shop-keepers in the mill areas charge higher prices for the quality of the articles supplied, and for one week's credit charge at least 10 per cent. over the market price. The establishment of co-operative supply stores would be a boon to the labourers.

(b) **Rent.**—For the same kind of quarters, the monthly rent charged by different mills varies from 4 annas to Re. 1-6-6. Uniformity on one of the lower scales is suggested.

(c) **Education.**—Establishment of free primary schools or elementary technical schools is desirable.

(d) **Diseases.**—The establishment of Venereal Clinics in suitable centres, in the mill areas is a necessity. Funds may be found by the combined contributions of the mills, Municipalities and Government. Other measures, such as licensing and inspection of prostitutes in this connection may be considered.

(e) **Maternity and child welfare.**—The establishment of a small Maternity Home with a lady doctor in charge in each industrial area would be a great improvement. A baby home with nurses to look

after the babies during the working hours of the mothers would eliminate the pernicious habit of dosing the children with opium.

(f) **Amusements.**—Very few can afford to spend anything for amusements. One of the mills provides a weekly free cinema show for the workers. We would recommend two things in this connection:—

- (i) providing regular shows like this in other mills; and
- (ii) exhibition of general educative films on maternity and child-welfare, social (showing the evils of excessive expenditure on marriages and funerals, etc.), personal hygiene and other public health films with special reference to the possibilities of improvements in their own conditions by their own efforts. Such films may be locally made and shown in different mills by turns.

(g) **Housing.**—Increase in the number of quarters for the labourers is a necessity. I cannot suggest any way to improve the ventilation of the present back-to-back quarters but the overcrowding can be avoided by increasing the number of quarters, and at the same time further construction of back-to-back houses cannot be advocated. Some mills would be willing to provide more accommodation if they could acquire lands and for this purpose larger powers under the Act are desirable. On the other hand, we found that one mill had lent out its own land for use as bastis which were most insanitary.

(h) Employment of trained Sanitary Inspectors for mills to look after general sanitation, adulterated foodstuffs, under-weights in the mill markets and septic tanks, etc., is suggested. They can also amuse and educate the labourers by giving lantern lectures on subjects affecting their welfare. The Bengal Public Health Department can supply fully trained Sanitary Inspectors on Rs. 50—5—100 a month.

(i) Providing washing platforms with sufficient water-supply for washing clothes.

(j) **Indebtedness.**—The high rate of interest charged by the money-lenders in mills areas is a permanent handicap to the labourers to better their condition. The establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies in this connection, wherever possible, is a matter for serious consideration.

(k) The appointment of a sympathetic officer who will study the needs and requirements of the labour force on one hand, and act in co-operation with the mill authorities on the other will go a great way towards the success of any scheme for the betterment of their condition. Success is all the more possible as the labour force is concentrated in definite areas.

In the course of our inquiry we had occasion to hear much discontented talk on the subject of low wages and lack of accommodation. These are perhaps made the grounds for fomenting strikes. Mere increment in wages will not better their lot. Those who earn more, simply spend a little more on food and waste more on miscellaneous expenses otherwise their general standard of living is in no way better than those with lower incomes, as will appear from a comparison of the Tables IX, A, B, C. It seems to me to be of prime importance to give them ideas of better living and to give them facilities to carry out those ideas within their means and to save them from the clutches of the money-lenders. It is a pitiable sight to watch

the Kabuli money-lenders and others sitting outside the gates on pay-days and realising their dues. Of recent years the local money-lenders have increased in number and anybody who can spare a few rupees invests it with the coolies because of the high rate of interest. In one instance, a man even borrowed Rs. 124 from several persons, for lending out to the coolies in small sums and gets Rs. 12 as interest a month, that is, more than 100 per cent. I think he understated his income from this source.

By giving effect to the above recommendations much of the discontent will disappear and this sympathetic effort on the part of the mill authorities will produce a corresponding effort on the part of the labourers to live better.

I confidently hope that the mill authorities will gladly co-operate in any scheme that may be drawn up, in consultation with them, to make a move on the lines suggested.

I take this opportunity of impressing on the Local Government the essential necessity of a thorough investigation with adequate trained staff into the factory labour conditions in Bengal. On such a comprehensive inquiry can definite practical measures of improvement be safely based to the advantage of all concerned.

In conclusion I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to the mill authorities for their uniform courtesy to me and co-operation in this work. My thanks are also due to my able assistant Dr. S. K. Chakravarty.

APPENDIX. **Diet Survey of Industrial Labour in Bengal in 1929 by Dr. A. C. Roy Choudhury.**

Average Quantity per head.

Foodstuffs.	Bengalis.			Hindusthanis.		Oriyas.		Madrasis.	Office Peons (Hindus- thas).	Corporation Peons (Hindus- thas).
	Jute mills. (211).	Cotton mills. (78).	Chataks.	Jute mills. (114).	Cotton mills. (167).	Jute mills. (8).	Cotton mills. (98).	Cotton mills. (48).	Chataks.	Chataks.
Rice	9	9½	Chataks.	8	4½	11½	11	11	3	5½
Atta	½	1½	Chataks.	2½	3½	nil	nil	nil	3½	5½
Dal	½	1½	Chataks.	2	1	1½	1	½	2½	3
Fish	½	1½	Chataks.	½	½	1½	1	½	nil	nil
Meat	1	½	Chataks.	½	1	½	½	½	nil	nil
Eggs	nil	½	Chataks.	½	nil	nil	nil	½	nil	nil
Potatoes	1½	1½	Chataks.	nil	1	2½	2	1	½	2
Other vegetables	2	2	Chataks.	1½	½	2½	2½	2	½	2½
Oil	1½	½	Chataks.	1½	½	½	½	½	½	1
Ghee	½	½	Chataks.	½	½	½	nil	½	½	½
Sugar	½	½	Chataks.	½	½	½	½	½	1	2
Muri	½	1	Chataks.	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	nil	nil
Milk	2	1	Chataks.	½	1	1	1	1	½	2½
Protein	66 gm.	82 gm.	Chataks.	76 gm.	68 gm.	74 gm.	68 gm.	60 gm.	74 gm.	111 gm.
Fat	41 gm.	53 gm.	Chataks.	39 gm.	45 gm.	55 gm.	42 gm.	46 gm.	59 gm.	87 gm.
Carbohydrate	526 gm.	663 gm.	Chataks.	558 gm.	401 gm.	714 gm.	662 gm.	595 gm.	428 gm.	749 gm.
Calories	2,752	3,526	Chataks.	2,786	2,340	3,568	3,111	3,111	2,522	4,256*
Average income per head per month (Rs.)	9 10 11	12 7 3	Chataks.	11 3 2	21 4 0	12 14 0	22 7 9	17 14 7	Not known.	Not known.
Average expenditure on food per head per month (Rs.)	7 14 0	8 11 7	Chataks.	8 6 4	9 4 3	9 0 0	10 4 5	9 5 11	Not known.	Not known.

* Two chataks of soaked gram is also taken in the morning.

The Calorific value of the food has been calculated according to the following scale.

Amount of proximate principles and Calories per chatak (2 ozs).

Items.	Protein expressed as nitrogen in grammes.	Fat in grammes.	Carbo- hydrate in grammes.	Calorie.
Rice	2.8	.5	47.3	210
Wheat	6.5	1.6	38.1	198
Dal	13.3	1.3	31.7	196
Fish	9.5	2.4	..	61
Meat	7.5	8.2	..	106
Egg	13.6	1.4	..	68
Oil and ghee .. ..	..	45.4	..	422
Milk	2.2	2.4	2.5	42
Potato	0.9	0.6	10.2	51
Other vegetables	1.1	2.8	6.8	58
Sugar .. ..	..	55.0	..	226
Muri	3.3	.15	46.8	207
Onion .. ..	..	..	..	24

PRELIMINARY FORM.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR.

Standard of Living.

(Note.—Information is required on the heads given below only in regard to a small number of representative working class families in important industries and plantations whose total family income does not exceed Rs. 50 a month.)

(1) *Industrial centre or plantation—*

Name of the head of the family—

Religion and caste—

Province and district of origin—

Cause of migration—

(2) *Size and composition of family :—*

	Numbers.				Ages of—		Relation- ship to the head of the family.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
Wage-earners ..							
Dependants resid- ing with wage- earners.							
Dependants resid- ing elsewhere.							

Note.—Persons under 15 should be treated as boys or girls.

(3) *Extent of literacy—*

(4) *Regularity of employment of wage-earners—*

(5) *Normal monthly family income—*

(a) Occupation of each wage-earner.			Monthly wages.	Monthly overtime pay.	Additional earnings, if any, with source.	Total.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Men	.. 1.	..				
	2.	..				
	3.	..				
Women	1.	..				
	2.	..				
	3.	..				
Boys	.. 1.	..				
	2.	..				
	3.	..				
Girls	.. 1.	..				
	2	..				
	3.	..				

Total amount of family income

Rs.

(a) *Occupation.*—The description of the occupation should be as definite as possible. Thus "cotton mill worker" is too general. The particular occupation should be specified, for example "cotton weaver" or "cotton spinner," or again, not "mechanic" but "fitter, black-smith, etc.," whatever it is.

(6) *Normal monthly expenditure of family on :—*

(i) Food, giving quantities of principal articles of food consumed in a month and cost of each—

(ii) Clothing—

(iii) Rent—

(iv) Fuel and lig

(v) Household requisites, *e.g.*, utensils, etc.—

(vi) Miscellaneous expenditure including—

(a) Remittances to dependants living in the village—

(b) Travelling to and from place of employment—

(c) Medicine and medical fees—

(d) Drink and drugs—

(e) Tobacco and *pan supari*—

(f) Religious observances, feasts and festivals—

(g) Payments to provident fund, trade union or co-operative society—

(h) Amusements and recreation—

(i) Education—

(j) Interest on debt—

(7) *Indebtedness*—

(i) Extent of indebtedness—

(ii) Causes. To what extent due to expenditure incurred on—

(a) Festivals—

(b) Marriages—

(c) Funerals—

(d) Sickness—

and (e) Unemployment—

(iii) Rate of interest; Nature of security on outstanding loans;
Terms of re-payment—

(8) *Housing*—

(i) Description of dwelling; materials used in construction—

(ii) Landlord*—

(iii) Distance from place of work—

(iv) Number of rooms occupied by family and approximate dimensions of each room—

(v) Dimensions of veranda, if any—

(vi) Water-supply—

(vii) Sanitation—

*State whether Government, Municipal, Employer or Private Landlord.

FORM I.**Workmen's Family Budget to show standard of living of Indian industrial workers.***Note for investigators.*

This enquiry has nothing whatever to do with taxation or rates. It is for the benefit of the work people that the information asked for should be obtained.

2. The particulars with regard to each family will be regarded as strictly private and confidential. All the Statements will be put together in such a way as to produce general averages. It is these average which will eventually be published.

3. The present Form is intended for working class families in industrial centres. As the whole population consists of men, women and children, it is desirable that each family selected for the enquiry should consist of husband, wife and children.

4. Special attention should be given to cases of families living under ordinary conditions. The more ordinary the family the better because it represents a large number. Exceptional cases should be avoided on the other hand, because they are not representatives of any large number.

5. In selecting wage earners those normally employed for the whole month should be taken, and persons in casual employment; sirdars, assistant sirdars or tindals should be excluded on the present occasion. The object is to obtain statements relating to normal conditions and for this reason a man on exceptionally short time would not be a good sample.

6. The dietaries of families belonging to different religions and castes frequently vary and therefore an endeavour should be made to ensure that the statement fairly represent all classes. Thus, a considerable number of both Hindu and Muhammadan family statements should be collected.

7. Information should be obtained for the most recent month because more exact information is likely to be available.

8. There may be a tendency to overstate the expenditure and to understate the family income. Where the expenditure adds up to more than the total income the investigator should make further enquiries. In some cases the excess of expenditure over income in one month may be met out of previous savings. If so, this should be stated.

(NOTE.—Information is required on the heads given below only in regard to a small number of representative working class families in important industries and plantations whose total family income does not exceed Rs. 50 a month. It should be explained to the workers that the particulars supplied will be regarded as strictly private and confidential and workers will give their weekly incomes and expenditures. The investigator should *note down the figures on the margin by the week*, as stated by the workers, and then exchange them into the monthly figures himself by multiplying the weekly figures by $4\frac{1}{2}$.)

Reference No.....

Date of enquiry.....193 , time from.....to
A.M./P.M.....day. Place of enquiry (factory,
 dispensary, or worker's house)?.....

Name, address and qualification of the investigator.....

Name and address of the establishment where employed.....

How many days does the Factory work in the week ?.....

Single shift ?.....

Multiple shift ?.....

Total hours of work during the week.....

Daily hours of work from.....A.M./P.M. to.....A.M./P.M.

Total working hours during the day.....

Hours of interval.....

I.—Family income and expenditure for the month of 193

Name of the workman....., his age.....

Married at the age of.....living in cooly lines, room No.

basti (give address).....

Working in the.....department of.....

Factory foryears.

Original home....., village.....

Post Office....., District....., Province.....

Religion—Hindu.....caste.....sub-caste.....

Muhammadan (Shia/Sunni).....

Means of livelihood of the worker in his native place, *e.g.*, agriculture,
or other trade or profession as barber, shoe-maker, vegetable-seller
or domestic servant, etc.....

.....
.....
and amount of Rupees.....earned monthly.

Working as industrial worker for.....years.

State the cause of migration, *e.g.*, domestic quarrel, economic strain,
etc., and why was this place chosen for migration.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

II.—Size and Composition of Family.

		Give names against each number.					
		Men.	Women.	Boys.	Age.	Girls.	Age.
Wage-earners ..	I.	1.	A.			a.	
	II.	2.	B.			b.	
	III.	3.	C.			c.	
				D.		d.	
				E.		e.	
Dependants residing with wage-earners.							
Dependants residing elsewhere.							

Note.—Persons under 15 should be treated as boys or girls.

Extent of literacy (name the language which they are able to read and write)—

1. Men.....
2. Women.....
3. Boys.....
4. Girls.....

Regularity of employment of wage-earners (inquire from the departmental clerks)—

1. Men.....
2. Women.....
3. Boys.....
4. Girls.....

Are wages paid weekly?.....

What day of the week are wages paid?.....

How many days' wages are kept in abeyance?.....

Amount of fine paid and for what fault?.....

Family income.—The monthly wages should include all war or similar bonuses regularly received but overtime pay should be entered in the separate column provided. In the column for value of concessions should be entered the approximate value of such items as free quarters, fuel or light, etc., and in the column for additional earnings should be entered any earnings by members of the family which were received otherwise than in the course of regular employment. Particulars with regard to the income and expenditure of the dependants not living with the head of the family must not be entered in this budget.

III.—Normal monthly Family income.

*Name and occupation of each wage-earner.	Wages.		Overtime pay.		Additional earnings, if any, with source.		Total monthly wages.
	Weekly.	Monthly.	Weekly.	Monthly.	Weekly.	Monthly.	
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
Men—							
1.							
2.							
3.							
Women—							
1.							
2.							
3.							
Boys—							
1.							
2.							
3.							
Girls—							
1.							
2.							
3.							
Total amount of family income							

**Occupation.*—The description of the occupation should be as definite as possible. Thus jute mill worker is too general. The particular occupation should be specified, for example, batching, preparing, winding, spinning, weaving or finishing department.

IV.—Expenditure on Food.

[Normal monthly expenditure of family on food, giving quantities of principal articles of food consumed in a *week* and in a *month* and cost of each.]

Commodities.	Rate per seer.	Total quantity		Total cost.	
		in week.	in month.	in week.	in month.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. A. P.			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Rice					
Wheat flour					
Other cereals					
Arahar					
Urad					
Moong					
Chana					
Musur					
Other pulses					
Sugar, refined					
Gur					
Tea (country/imported)					
Tea, ready-made					
Fish, fresh					
Fish, salted dry					
Fish, salted wet					
Beef					
Mutton (goat)					
Fowls					
Duck					
Pork					
Other meat					
Milk, fresh					
Milk, condensed					
Ghee					
Salt					

IV.—Expenditure on Food—*concl'd.*

Commodities.	Rate per seer.	Total quantity		Total cost	
		in week.	in month.	in week.	in month.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. A. P.			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Tamarind					
Spices and condiments, powdered.					
Chillies					
Other spices and condiments					
Potatoes					
Onions					
Fruit and other vegetables					
Sesamum oil					
Cocoanut oil					
Mustard oil					
Other oils used as food ..					
Food bought and consumed away from home ..					
Other foodstuffs ..					
Total expenditure on food ..					

V.—Expenditure on Fuel and Lighting.

Coal					
Charcoal					
Firewood					
Kerosene					
Electric light					
Other fuel and lighting ..					
Total expenditure on fuel and lighting ..					

VI.—Rent per month.

VII.—Expenditure on clothing not bought every month.

Instructions for filling up particulars regarding clothing, bedding, utensils and furniture.

Materials.—Care should be taken to state in column 2 the particulars, kind and quality of materials of which the articles shown in column 1 are made.

Number of articles.—In column 3 should be entered the number of each article actually in use at the time of the investigation, including changes of dress, possessed by the family.

Cost per article.—In column 4 should be entered the price per article when purchased. If similar articles were purchased at different prices, the prices should be entered separately at the number of articles at each price shown.

Total cost.—Column 5 will be obtained by multiplying the number in column 4.

Duration of articles.—In column 6 should be entered the total time which each article may be expected to last from the date of its purchase to the date when it is finally discarded as useless.

Cost per month.—Column 7 will be obtained by dividing the total cost in column 5 by the number entered in column 6.

Articles.	Principal materials of which the article is made.	Number of articles in use.	Cost per article when bought.	Total cost of articles.	Estimated number of months that each article will last.	Estimated cost per month on average.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Clothing for Men.						
Dhotis ..						
Longyis (silk) ..						
Longyis (cotton) ..						
Short pants ..						
Trousers/Pyjamas ..						
Banians (ganjis) ..						
Half shirts ..						
Shirts/Kurtas ..						
Coats ..						
Aingyis/Jackets ..						
Upper cloth ..						

Articles.	Principal materials of which the article is made.	Number of articles in use.	Cost per article when bought.	Total cost of articles.	Estimated number of months that each article will last.	Estimated cost per month on average.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Clothing for Men— <i>concl.</i>						
Turbans (pagris) ..						
Caps						
Shoes						
Sandals (leather/wooden) ..						
Slippers						
Umbrellas (iron/bamboo frames) ..						
Total for men ..						
Clothing for Women.						
Saris						
Longyis (silk) ..						
Longyis (cotton) ..						
Bodices						
Aingyis/Jackets ..						
Upper cloths ..						
Sandals (leather/wooden) ..						
Slippers						
Umbrellas (iron/bamboo frames) ..						
Total for women ..						

Articles.	Principal materials of which the article is made.	Number of articles in use.	Cost per article when bought.	Total cost of articles.	Estimated number of months that each article will last.	Estimated cost per month on average.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Clothing for Children.						
Dhotis						
Saris						
Longyis (silk) ..						
Longyis (cotton) ..						
Banians						
Half shirts ..						
Shirts						
Bodices						
Aingyis/Jackets ..						
Frocks						
Baby caps ..						
Shoes						
Sandals (leather/wooden)						
Slippers						
Total for Children ..						
Total expenditure for clothing on men, women and children.						

VIII.—Expenditure on Bedding articles not bought every month.

Bedding.						
Cots						
Mats (bamboo) ..						
Mats, thin or weed ..						
Mattresses ..						
Blankets ..						
Bed sheets ..						
Pillows						
Pillow cases ..						
Mosquito nets ..						
Total expenditure on bedding.						

IX.—Household requisites, e.g., utensils, etc.

Articles.	Principal materials of which the article is made.	Number of articles in use.	Cost per article when bought.	Total cost of articles.	Estimated number of months that each article will last.	Estimated cost per month on average.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cooking pots—						
Aluminium ..						
Brass ..						
Earthen ..						
Cups—Plates—Tumblers—						
Aluminium ..						
Brass ..						
China ..						
Earthen ..						
Other utensils, e.g., <i>thalas</i> , <i>lotas</i> , etc.						

X.—Furniture.

Wooden beds ..						
Charpoyas ..						
Benches ..						
Chairs						
Stools						
Total expenditure on household requisites, utensils and furniture, etc.						

XI.—Miscellaneous Expenditure.

Items.	Cost.					
	Weekly.			Monthly.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Taxes (a)						
Barber						
Dhobi						
Soap (b)						
Medical fees and medicines (c)						
Education						
Travelling expenses to and from work or bazar						
Tobacco						
Toddy						
Liquor (country or imported) (b)						
Opium						
Ganja—Bhang						
Betels—Pansupari						
Amusements						
Hair oil						
Excess of credit over market price						
Interest on Rs.						
Here note any other items of miscellaneous expenditure such as religious festivals, etc., which are regular in character						
Total miscellaneous expenditure						

(a) Exclusive of those mentioned under "Rent."

(b) Name of the particular kind or quality and brand or trade mark should be specified.

(c) If the expenditure on certain articles is not incurred regularly every month, but is of a recurring nature as in the case of medicines, annual festivals, payment to dependants, etc., the estimated annual expenditure should be divided by 12 in order to arrive at the monthly expenditure.

(d) The amount of debt outstanding at the beginning of the month should be entered here.

(e) If the expenditure exceeds the income all the items should be verified, as obviously it cannot be generally true that the expenditure exceeds the income every month. In some cases the excess of expenditure may be met out of previous earnings or by the sale of jewellery. How the excess is met should be stated.

XII.—Summary of Income and Expenditure.

Rs. A. P.

Total Family Income in the month investigated (*see page.....*) ..

Expenditure—	Rs. A. P.		
Food (<i>see page.....</i>)			
Fuel and lighting (<i>see page.....</i>)			
Rent (<i>see page.....</i>)			
Clothing (<i>see page.....</i>)			
Household requisites (<i>see page.....</i>)			
Miscellaneous expenditure (<i>see page.....</i>)			
Total expenditure of family in month			
Excess of income over expenditure			
Remittance of dependants			

XIII.—Indebtedness.

(i) Extent of indebtedness—

(ii) Causes: To what extent due to expenditure incurred on—

- (a) Festivals.....
- (b) Marriage.....
- (c) Funerals.....
- (d) Sickness.....
- (e) Unemployment

(iii) Rate of interest; Nature of security on outstanding loans:

Terms of repayment.....

State here whether the family buys on credit or cash system.....

If interest was charged on credit purchase, state, if possible, what was the rate of interest—

XIV.—Housing.

Read note given below (a) and state number of persons, *i.e.*, men, women, boys, girls living in one room.)

	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Rent paid weekly.....		monthly.....
(i) Description of dwelling.....		
Flooring (katcha/cemented).....		
Wall (mud/brick).....		
Roof (corrugated/tiled/thatched)		
State whether the dwelling is in a good state of repair or is dilapidated.....		
(ii) Landlord.....		
(iii) Distance from place of work.....		
Are any animals kept (cows, goats, etc.)?.....		
monthly expenditure?.....		
How much milk is obtained daily?.....		
(iv) Number of rooms occupied by family and approximate <i>dimensions</i> of each room.....		
Back to back.....		
Ventilation.....		
Sizes of doors and windows.....		
Cross ventilation.....		
(v) Dimensions of verandah, if any?.....		
Cemented or brick-on-edge or katcha?.....		
(vi) Dimensions of courtyard, if any?.....		
Cemented or brick-on-edge or katcha?.....		
(vii) Water-supply (filtered/well/tank).....		

(viii) Sanitation—

Flush	
Septic tank.....	
or privy latrine	
Cleanliness of the surroundings.....	

“Rent” includes ground rent and taxes payable to the Development Trust and Corporation respectively and any charges for a waterman. Where workmen live in their own houses, the amount which a tenant would have to pay for the house should be entered as rent, and this amount, less the average monthly expenditure on ground rent, taxes and repairs, should be added to the income. Where more than one family occupy a single room, special care should be taken to enter only the share of the rent actually paid by the family to which the budget refers.

(a) If one room is occupied by more than one family the number of men over 18 and of women over 16 and the number, sex and age of children under these ages, who occupy the room, should be stated.

(b) Expenses on religious and other festivals other than those which are regular in character and entered on page.....should be entered.

Additional information.

Information should be obtained where possible regarding the following:

1. (a) Nature of work and hours of labour.....
- (b) Where there are two or more occupations the month of the year during which each is followed should be given.....
2. Whether unemployed or not during any part of the year and if so for how long.....
3. Any disease from which the members of the family suffer.....
4. Any other information bearing on the economic condition. Where the family is indebted the amount originally borrowed, the approximate date and reason for incurring the debt, the security given and the method of repayment should be noted.....

